PITTA

Newsletter of Deccan Birders (formerly Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh)
New Series Volume 20 Number 7 June 2023

FIELD TRIP: Sunday, 25th June 2023, 7.00AM: Zaheerabad. Meeting Points: Miyapur Metro Station, 4.30AM; BHEL Bus Stop, 4.45AM; Taj Dhaba, Muthangi, 5.00AM. Trip Coordinator(s): Srikanth Bhamidipati (Mobile: 97388-40070); Gokul Krishna A (Mobile: 99453-46585)

Zaheerabad, close to Chincholi, is located near Telangana-Karnataka border. The forest hosts rich biodiversity. Apart from medicinal herbs and trees, species like Red Sanders and Sandalwood are found abundantly in the adjoining social forest, which has good dry deciduous and moist deciduous forest in the core, with Acacia and Teak plantations on the fringes. The forest area is also home to various species of birds: look out for White-bellied Minivet, Small Minivet, Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo, Black-headed Cuckooshrike, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Tree Pipit, Rain Quail, Jungle Bush Quail, Rock Bush Quail, Barred Buttonquail, Painted Francolin, Baya Weaver etc.

This will be a half-day trip, so carry adequate water and breakfast/snacks, and protective gear if required. Strict Covid protocols will be followed; please ensure you wear masks, carry a sanitiser and maintain social distancing. Non-members are most welcome; however, they are requested to contribute Rs. 100/- per person to the Deccan Birders kitty.

BIRDS OF COSTA RICA
Trip Report: Monteverde, Costa Rica, March 13-16, 2023

Text & Photos: Dr Jairamchander Pingle

Keel-billed Toucan

Since a long time, I had the great desire to visit Costa Rica to see and photograph the beautiful birds of that country. My daughter had arranged to do so in April of 2020, but unfortunately due to the Covid pandemic, it was not to be.

Well, this year we were able to make it – my wife Surekha, daughter Divya, granddaughter Riya and I went to Costa Rica on March 12, 2023, for 5 nights. We travelled to Monteverde, the flight being from Orlando in the US to San Jose, and on by taxi to our stay at the Hidden Canopy Resort, where the rooms were in and above the forest canopy.

Divya and my son Karthik had visited Costa Rica last year and, through their guide, fixed up for me with Oscar, an excellent guide. He would pick me up every morning of the 4 days I had, promptly at 6:00AM to return at 12 noon. As all the sanctuaries opened at 8:00AM, we used to first go down to the Santa Elena village, lower down, and walk around there.

Grey-headed Chachalaka

Black Guan

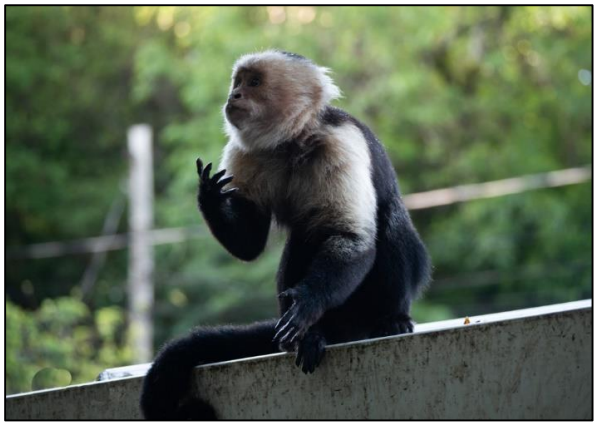
Brown Jay

Slate-throated Redstart

We could see quite a few birds like the Grey-headed Chachalaka, Black Guan, Brown Jay, Slate-throated Redstart, Great-tailed Grackle, Emerald Toucanet etc, and, flying over us, the Black Vultures.

Great-tailed Grackle

Emerald Toucanet



White-headed Capuchin Monkey

At about 7:00AM, we would have a quick bite of bagels for breakfast. Usually, during breakfast, we would see the White-headed Capuchin Monkey and a few Howler Monkeys and some Variegated Squirrels, before proceeding to the sanctuaries.

Howler Monkey

Variegated Squirrel

The Monteverde Rain Forest is such that in the morning it was either cloudy or sunny, and by 12 noon it would start to rain sporadically. Rain ponchos are essential, though I only used it once.

On the first day, March 13, 2023, we went to Curi-Cancha Reserve, which had some amazing trees and thick forest, where one needs to trek. The pathways are well maintained, though.

Resplendent Quetzal male

Resplendent Quetzal female

We walked into a clearing and were extremely fortunate to see the Resplendent Quetzal birds, both male and female, and they gave us a good chance to photograph them. As we continued walking, we saw several of the amazing Hummingbirds – varied in their numbers, with many species to see.

Magenta-throated Woodstar female

Mexican Violetear

We spotted and photographed the Magenta-throated Woodstar, which is a very small hummingbird and has a characteristic way of hovering while sucking nectar from the violet-coloured Delphineum flowers, and also the Mexican Violetear and the Green-crowned Brilliant Hummingbirds.

Rufous Hummingbird

The less common Rufous Hummingbird was a nice catch – one has to be quite quick to do so, as they are very fleeting.

We also saw the bee hive of stingless bees, busy as ever, and Oscar showed the nest entrance through his Swarovski telescope.

Hoffman's Woodpecker

Blue-gray Tanager

We returned to the resort and, in the afternoon, I had a treat of hummingbird photography at the nectar feeding station, where the hummingbirds and several other birds such as the Hoffman's Woodpecker, Blue-gray Tanager, Slate-throated Redstart etc would also come for it.

On March 14, Oscar picked me up – this time Divya came along – and we went to the same village and then proceeded to the Monteverde Rain Forest Sanctuary. The forest was indeed amazing.

Azure-hooded Jay

Collared Trogon male

Collared Trogon female

Yellowish Flycatcher

As we walked through, we were lucky to see and photograph the Azure-hooded Jay foraging on the forest floor. We saw the Collared Trogon, male and female, and were also lucky to spot and photograph the Resplendent Quetzal again, though with some difficulty, through the foliage.

Common Agouti

Violet Sabrewing

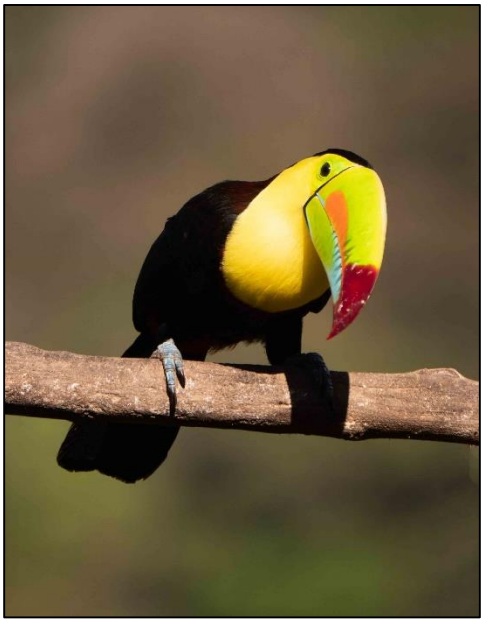
White-nosed Coatimundi

Clay-coloured Thrush

We saw the Agouti and the Coatimundi in the forest, foraging very close to us, and quite unafraid.

The other birds we saw were the Summer Tanager, Yellowish Flycatcher, Violet Sabrewing hummingbird, Clay-coloured Thrush – but the highlight were two hummingbird nests, in one of which there were three tiny chicks.

We watched and photographed them from a distance. I was informed by Oscar that the mother feeds the chicks with a combination of insects and nectar. Oscar took some video of feeding on my iPhone through his telescope, as I kept taking still photos.



Keel-billed Toucan

Crimson-collared Tanager

Scarlet-rumped Tanager

On March 15, after the early morning routine, we went to Finca Ecologica San Luis. My granddaughter accompanied me to where there are hides and fruit for birds to come and eat. Here we photographed the Keel-billed Toucan, Emerald Toucanet, Crimson-collared Tanager, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Great Kiskadee, Baltimore Oriole, Lesson's Motmot etc.

Yellow-throated Euphonia

Great Kiskadee

Lesson's Motmot

Baltimore Oriole

The social nest of the Montezuma birds was interesting – it looked like a bunch of Baya Weaver nests stuck together. At a great distance, we saw the nest of Black Hawks and saw them mating too. I did photograph them but not well.

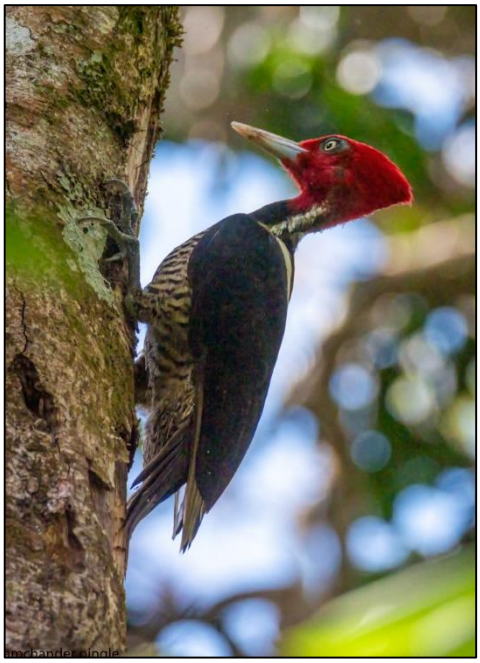
We returned at noon and I went to the feeders at our resort and enjoyed photographing the hummingbirds.

Long-tailed Manakin

On March 16, our last day there, I went to Bajo del Tigre with Divya. Oscar showed me the Manakin birds which are beautiful and competitive for female attention, and dance to get it. Needless to say, it was very difficult to photograph them, but luckily I did manage to do so.

Oscar managed to show me the Three-wattled Bellbird, which I could photograph and video, with its resonating bell sound which could be heard for a kilometre.

Three-wattled Bellbird



Pale-billed Woodpecker

Wilson's Warbler

Chestnut-capped Warbler

We saw the Pale-billed Woodpecker, a rather large woodpecker, the White-eared Ground Sparrow, Wilson's Warbler, Chestnut-capped Warbler and Black-and-white Warbler.

All in all, it was a most memorable trip, and I would strongly recommend it, especially for birding.

The lists of birds seen during the trip is given below:

Sl No	Species Name	Scientific Name	Sl No	Species Name	Scientific Name
1	Grey-headed Chachalaca	*Ortalis cinereiceps*	34	Three-wattled Bellbird	*Procnias tricarunculatus*
2	Black Guan	*Chamaepetes unicolor*	35	Brown Jay	*Psilorhinus morio*
3	Black Vulture	*Coragyps atratus*	36	Azure-hooded Jay	*Cyanolyca cucullata*
4	American Swallow-tailed Kite	*Elanoides forficatus*	37	Black-faced Solitaire	*Myadestes melanops*
5	Great Black Hawk	*Buteogallus urubitinga*	38	Clay-colored Thrush	*Turdus grayi*
6	Violet Sabrewing	*Campylopterus hemileucurus*	39	Rufous-and-white Wren	*Thryophilus rufalbus*
7	Green Hermit	*Phaethornis guy*	40	Grey-crowned Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis poliocephala*
8	Green-crowned Brilliant	*Heliodoxa jacula*	41	Wilson's Warbler	*Cardellina pusilla*
9	Blue-vented Hummingbird	*Saucerottia hoffmanni*	42	Slate-throated Redstart	*Myioborus miniatus*
10	Stripe-tailed Hummingbird	*Eupherusa eximia*	43	Chestnut-capped Warbler	*Basileuterus delattrii*
11	Coppery-headed Emerald	*Microchera cupreiceps*	44	Crimson-collared Tanager	*Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*
12	Lesser Violetear	*Colibri cyanotus*	45	Blue-gray Tanager	*Thraupis episcopus*
13	Mexican Violetear	*Colibri thalassinus*	46	Yellow-faced Grassquit	*Tiaris olivaceus*
14	Purple-throated Mountain-gem	*Lampornis calolaemus*	47	Buff-throated Saltator	*Saltator maximus*
15	Magenta-throated Woodstar	*Philodice bryantae*	48	White-eared Ground Sparrow	*Melozone leucotis*
16	Scintillant Hummingbird	*Selasphorus scintilla*	49	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	*Pheucticus ludovicianus*
17	Short-billed Pigeon	*Patagioenas nigrirostris*	50	Summer Tanager	*Piranga rubra*
18	White-winged Dove	*Zenaida asiatica*	51	Great-tailed Grackle	*Quiscalus mexicanus*
19	Squirrel Cuckoo	*Piaya cayana*	52	Baltimore Oriole	*Icterus galbula*
20	Collared Trogon	*Trogon collaris*	53	Montezuma Oropendola	*Psarocolius montezuma*
21	Resplendent Quetzal	*Pharomachrus mocinno*	54	Golden-browed Chlorophonia	*Chlorophonia callophrys*
22	Lesson's Motmot	*Momotus lessonii*	55	Yellow-throated Euphonia	*Euphonia hirundinacea*
23	Emerald Toucanet	*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*	56	Black-and-white Warbler	*Mniotilta varia*
24	Keel-billed Toucan	*Ramphastos sulfuratus*	57	Rufous Hummingbird	*Selasphorus rufus*
25	Hoffmann's Woodpecker	*Melanerpes hoffmannii*	58	Masked Tityra	*Tityra semifasciata*
26	Pale-billed Woodpecker	*Campephilus guatemalensis*	59	Palm Tanager	*Thraupis palmarum*
27	Streak-headed Woodcreeper	*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*	60	Scarlet-rumped Tanager	*Ramphocelus passerinii*
28	Paltry Tyrannulet	*Zimmerius parvus*	61	Slender-billed Grackle	*Quiscalus palustris*
29	Piratic Flycatcher	*Legatus leucophaius*	62	Spotted Barbtail	*Premnoplex brunnescens*
30	Yellowish Flycatcher	*Empidonax flavescens*	63	Thick-billed Euphonia	*Euphonia laniirostris*
31	Great Kiskadee	*Pitangus sulphuratus*	64	White-lined Tanager	*Tachyphonus rufus*
32	Boat-billed Flycatcher	*Megarynchus pitangua*	65	White-vented Violetear	*Colibri serrirostris*
33	Long-tailed Manakin	*Chiroxiphia linearis*	66	Purple-throated Woodstar	*Philodice mitchellii*

Other taxa seen:

Sl No	Species Name	Scientific Name	Sl No	Species Name	Scientific Name
1	Common Agouti	*Dasyprocta sp*	4	Variegated Squirrel	*Sciurus variegatoides*
2	White-headed Capuchin Monkey	*Cebus imitator / Cebus capucinus*	5	White-nosed Coatimundi	*Nasua narica*
3	Howler Monkey	*Alouatta sp*	6	Flying Lizard	*Draco sp*

Some other photos taken during the trip:

Lesser Violetear

Flying Lizard

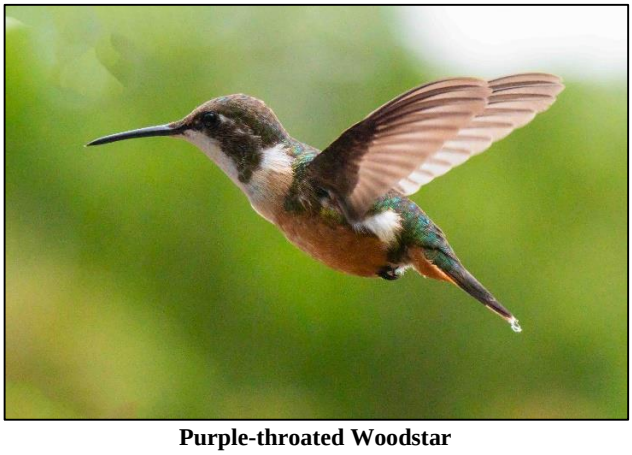
Grey-crowned Yellowthroat

Coppery-headed Emerald

Masked Tityra

Palm Tanager

Montezuma Oropendola



Purple-throated Woodstar

Spotted Barbtail

Violet Sabrewing

White-vented Violetear

Black-headed Saltator

Golden-browed Chlorophonia

Purple-throated Mountain-gem

Resplendent Quetzal

White-eared Ground Sparrow

Avocado fruit much liked by Quetzals

Thick-billed Euphonia male (L) and female (R)

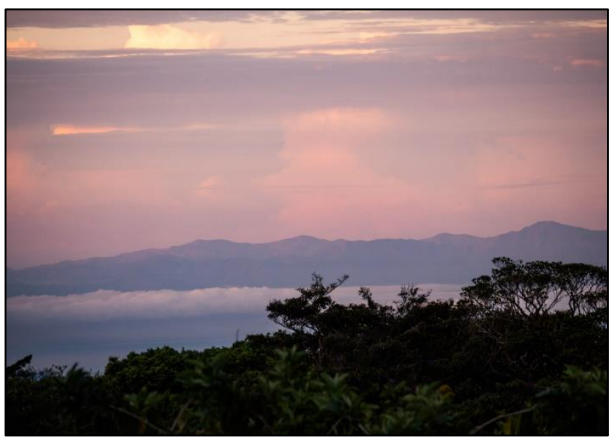
Short-billed Pigeon

Rufous-and-white Wren

Slender-billed Grackle

Yellow-faced Grassquit

White-lined Tanager



View from Hidden Canopy Resort

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Summary Report: ASIAN WATERFOWL CENSUS, 2023

Summary data provided by: Humayun Taher

As our members would be aware, the Asian Waterfowl Census (AWC) is an annual exercise that takes place generally during January every year (and sometimes a couple of weeks before and after). The main purpose of this exercise is to track changes in presence and populations of a specified list of water- and water-dependent birds. During this exercise, volunteers visit various waterbodies in their areas, and attempt to estimate and document the abundance of the said species.

We present below a summary of the sightings documented during the Census this year, along with a comparison with the data from the past two years. Going forward, we plan to present a similar summary every year.

ASIAN WATERFOWL CENSUS - SUMMARY - ANDHRA PRADESH

			2023		2022		2021	
		IUCN Red Data List Classification (Note 5)	Totals	Species in each Group	Totals	Species in each Group	Totals	Species in each Group
GREBES			**216**	**2**	**232**	**2**	**583**	**2**
Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	LC	170		184		536	
Great Crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*	LC	16		8		32	
Red-necked Grebe	*Podiceps grisegena*	LC						
Black-necked Grebe	*Podiceps nigricollis*	LC						
Unidentified Grebes			30		40		15	
PELICANS			**3,830**	**2**	**3,722**	**1**	**12,283**	**2**
Spot-billed Pelican	*Pelicanus philippensis*	NT	3,826		3,722		12,282	
Great White Pelican	*Pelicanus onocrotalus*	LC	4				1	
Dalmatian Pelican	*Pelicanus crispus*	NT						
Unidentified Pelicans								
CORMORANTS & DARTER			**1,562**	**4**	**1,418**	**4**	**7,424**	**4**
Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	LC	563		656		52	
Indian Shag (Indian Cormorant)	*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*	LC	328		276		114	
Little Cormorant	*Microcarbo niger*	LC	617		460		2,942	
Unidentified Cormorants							4,265	
Oriental Darter	*Anhinga melanogaster*	NT	54		26		51	
HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS			**8,836**	**13**	**8,536**	**13**	**42,310**	**13**
Malayan Night Heron	*Gorsachius melanolophus*	LC						
Black Crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	LC	125		40		65	
Indian Pond Heron	*Ardeola grayii*	LC	772		784		3,685	
Little Green (Striated) Heron	*Butorides striatus*	LC	38		44		48	
Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea*	LC	66		29		147	
Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	LC	243		188		541	
Goliath Heron	*Ardea goliath*	LC						
White-bellied Heron	*Ardea insignis*	CR						
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	LC	1,115		1,057		2,979	
Western Reef Egret	*Egretta gularis*	LC	84		66		151	
Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	LC	1,495		1,571		3,487	

Intermediate Egret	*Ardea intermedia*	**LC**	484		512		460	
Large Egret	*Casmerodius albus*	**LC**	1,257		1,213		1,051	
Unidentified Herons & Egrets			3,100		3,000		29,600	
Great Bittern (Eurasian Bittern)	*Botaurus stellaris*	**LC**						
Yellow Bittern	*Ixobrychus sinensis*	**LC**	26		24		26	
Black Bittern	*Ixobrychus flavicollis*	**LC**	8		6		5	
Chestnut or Cinnamon Bittern	*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*	**LC**	23		2		10	
Unidentified Bitterns							55	
STORKS			**4,956**	**4**	**5,260**	**3**	**13,718**	**3**
Painted Stork	*Mycteria leucocephala*	**NT**	2,024		1,981		5,395	
Asian Openbill	*Anastomus oscitans*	**LC**	2,868		3,278		8,315	
Black Stork	*Ciconia nigra*	**LC**						
White-necked (Woolly-necked) Stork	*Ciconia episcopus*	**NT**	62		1		8	
European White Stork	*Ciconia ciconia*	**LC**	2					
Oriental White Stork	*Ciconia boyciana*	**EN**						
Black-necked Stork	*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*	**NT**						
Lesser Adjutant Stork	*Leptoptilos javanicus*	**VU**						
Greater Adjutant Stork	*Leptoptilos dubius*	**EN**						
Unidentified Storks								
IBISES & SPOONBILL			**4,022**	**4**	**4,184**	**3**	**33,356**	**4**
Oriental White Ibis	*Threskiornis melanocephalus*	**NT**	660		785		1,121	
Black Ibis	*Pseudibis papillosa*	**LC**	14				1	
Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	**LC**	3,302		3,361		31,932	
Eurasian (White) Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia*	**LC**	46		38		302	
FLAMINGOS			**4,145**	**2**	**4,505**	**1**	**31,023**	**1**
Greater Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus ruber*	**LC**	4,023		4,505		31,023	
Lesser Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus minor*	**NT**	122					
Unidentified flamingos								
GEESE & DUCKS			**42,660**	**16**	**8,741**	**14**	**30,920**	**15**
Large (Fulvous) Whistling Duck	*Dendrocygna bicolor*	**LC**	256				445	
Lesser Whistling Duck	*Dendrocygna javanica*	**LC**	320		275		1,823	
Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*	**LC**						
Bar-headed Goose	*Anser indicus*	**LC**	132		82			
Unidentified geese								
Brahminy Duck	*Tadorna ferruginea*	**LC**	23		2		113	
Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	**LC**						
White-winged Duck	*Cairina scutulata*	**EN**						
Comb Duck	*Sarkidiornis melanotos*	**LC**	32		7		2	
Cotton Teal	*Nettapus coromandelianus*	**LC**	72		96		106	
Eurasian Widgeon	*Mareca penelope*	**LC**	659		130		626	
Falcated Teal	*Mareca falcate*	**NT**						
Gadwall	*Mareca strepera*	**LC**	57		35		5	

Common Teal	*Anas crecca*	LC	19		28		163	
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	LC						
Spot-billed Duck	*Anas poecilorhyncha*	LC	208		180		1,229	
Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	LC	409		302		5,322	
Garganey	*Spatula querquedula*	LC	106		119		1,310	
Northern Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*	LC	1,188		1,138		1,674	
Marbled Teal	*Marmaronetta angustirostris*	VU						
Red-crested Pochard	*Netta rufina*	LC	2				202	
Common Pochard	*Aythya ferina*	LC	130		57		268	
Baer's Pochard	*Aythya baeri*	CR						
Ferruginous Duck	*Aythya nyroca*	NT						
Tufted Pochard	*Aythya fuligula*	LC	204		246		32	
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*	LC						
Common Merganser	*Mergus merganser*	LC						
White-headed Duck	*Oxyura leucocephala*	EN						
Unidentified Ducks			38,843		6,044		17,600	
CRANES								
Common Crane	*Grus grus*	LC						
Black-necked Crane	*Grus nigricollis*	NT						
Sarus Crane	*Grus antigone*	VU						
Siberian Crane	*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*	CR						
Demoiselle Crane	*Anthropoides virgo*	LC						
Unidentified cranes								
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOT			**1,255**	**6**	**743**	**5**	**1,682**	**9**
Water Rail	*Rallus aquaticus*	LC					3	
Blue/Slaty-breasted Rail	*Lewinia striatus*	LC	2		1		1	
Slaty-legged Crake	*Rallina eurizonoides*	LC						
Baillon's Crake	*Zapornia pusilla*	LC	4				15	
Ruddy-breasted Crake	*Zapornia fusca*	LC					25	
Brown Crake	*Zapornia akool*	LC						
Whitebreasted Waterhen	*Amaurornis phoenicurus*	LC	88		81		131	
Watercock	*Gallicrex cinerea*	LC					3	
Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	LC	55		23		127	
Grey-headed Swamphen	*Porphyrio porphyrio*	LC	526		355		917	
Common Coot	*Fulica atra*	LC	580		283		460	
FINFOOT & JACANAS			**268**	**2**	**276**	**2**	**892**	**2**
Masked Finfoot	*Heliopais personata*	EN						
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*	LC	164		189		593	
Bronze-winged Jacana	*Metopidius indicus*	LC	104		87		299	
SHOREBIRDS - WADERS			**31,325**	**35**	**27,115**	**32**	**1,98,339**	**39**
Greater Painted Snipe	*Rostratula benghalensis*	LC	14		10			
Crab Plover	*Dromas ardeola*	LC						
Eurasian Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	NT					15	
Ibisbill	*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*	LC						
Pied Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	LC	219		156		7	

Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	LC	6,201		6,803		4,726	
Great Stone Plover	*Esacus recurvirostris*	NT						
Oriental Pratincole	*Glareola maldivarum*	LC					25	
Collared Pratincole	*Glareola pratincola*	LC						
Little Pratincole	*Glareola lactea*	LC	22				739	
Northern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	NT						
River Lapwing	*Vanellus duvaucelli*	NT						
Greyheaded Lapwing	*Vanellus cinereus*	LC	43		6		77	
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus malabaricus*	LC	24		10		1	
Sociable Lapwing	*Vanellus gregarius*	CR						
White-tailed Lapwing	*Vanellus leucurus*	LC						
Red-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*	LC	212		196		1,477	
Little Ringed Plover	*Charadrius dubius*	LC	234		223		1,317	
Kentish Plover	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	LC	209		171		517	
Common Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	LC	22		87		36	
Grey Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*	LC	37				481	
Long-billed Plover	*Charadrius placidus*	LC			14			
Greater Sand Plover	*Charadrius leschenaultii*	LC	29		90		209	
Pacific Golden Plover	*Pluvialis fulva*	LC	544		933		5,566	
Lesser Sand (Mongolian) Plover	*Charadrius mongolus*	LC	6,490		7,743		5,349	
Blacktailed Godwit	*Limosa limosa*	NT	1,050		500		2,905	
Bar-tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	NT	14		77		377	
Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	LC	41		12		225	
Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata*	NT	27		43		175	
Spotted Redshank	*Tringa erythropus*	LC	351		456		25	
Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*	LC	367		329		698	
Marsh Sandpiper	*Tringa stagnatilis*	LC	59		64		357	
Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	LC	85		49		181	
Spotted (Nordmann's) Greenshank	*Tringa guttifer*	EN			24			
Green Sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*	LC	44		138		28	
Wood Sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	LC	279		38		511	
Terek Sandpiper	*Xenus cinereus*	LC	8		6		379	
Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	LC	43		68		521	
Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	LC	17				202	
Red-necked Phalarope	*Phalaropus lobatus*	LC						
Red Phalarope	*Phalaropus fulicarius*	LC						
Eurasian Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*	LC						
Solitary Snipe	*Gallinago solitaria*	LC						
Pintail Snipe	*Gallinago stenura*	LC					6	
Swinhoe's Snipe	*Gallinago megala*	LC			4			
Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	LC	23		5		3	
Jack Snipe	*Lymnocryptes minimus*	LC	2				1	
Asian Dowitcher	*Limnodromus semipalmatus*	NT						
Great Knot	*Calidris tenuirostris*	EN	45				250	
Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	LC					40	
Long-toed Stint	*Calidris subminuta*	LC	22		1,325		2	
Little Stint	*Calidris minuta*	LC	2,563		555		4,753	
Temminck's Stint	*Calidris temminckii*	LC	69				59	
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	LC			1,700		26	
Curlew Sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	NT	1,622				409	
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	*Calidris pygmeus*	CR						

Broad-billed Sandpiper	*Limicola falcinellus*	**LC**						
Ruff	*Calidris pugnax*	**LC**	294		280		487	
Unidentified Shorebirds			10,000		5,000		1,65,177	
GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMER			**6,720**	**14**	**8,241**	**12**	**19,066**	**14**
Sooty Gull	*Larus hemprichii*	**LC**						
Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	**LC**						
Brown-headed Gull	*Larus brunnicephalus*	**LC**	558		845		1,606	
Black-headed Gull	*Larus ridibundus*	**LC**	52		64		166	
Pallas' Gull	*Larus ichthyaetus*	**LC**	9		4		2,551	
Heuglin's Gull	*Larus heuglini*	**LC**	19		22		10	
Slender-billed Gull	*Larus genei*	**LC**						
Unidentified Gulls			55		67		3,720	
Whiskered Tern	*Chlidonias hybridus*	**LC**	2,694		4,411		5,450	
White-winged Tern	*Chlidonias leucopterus*	**LC**						
Gull-billed Tern	*Gelochelidon nilotica*	**LC**	47		63		277	
Indian River Tern	*Sterna aurantia*	**VU**	27		13		65	
Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	**LC**	67		55		214	
Caspian Tern	*Sterna caspia*	**LC**	27		31		958	
Little Tern	*Sternula albifrons*	**LC**	105		129		276	
Black-bellied Tern	*Sterna acuticauda*	**EN**	10		12			
Saunders' Little Tern	*Sterna saundersii*	**LC**						
Great Crested Tern	*Thalasseus bergii*	**LC**	19				209	
Lesser Crested Tern	*Thalasseus bengalensis*	**LC**	6				218	
Sandwich Tern	*Thalasseus sandvicensis*	**LC**					1	
Unidentified Terns			2,850		2,400		3,170	
Indian Skimmer	*Rhynchops albicollis*	**EN**	175		125		175	
OTHER WATER DEPENDENT BIRDS								
HAWKS, EAGLES, OSPREY & FALCONS			**38**	**6**	**45**	**5**	**103**	**6**
Brahminy Kite	*Haliastur indus*	**LC**	21		26		64	
Pallas's Fish Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*	**EN**						
White-tailed Sea Eagle	*Hailaeetus albicilla*	**LC**						
Lesser Grey-headed Fish-Eagle	*Ichthyophaga humilis*	**NT**						
Greater Grey-headed Fish-Eagle	*Icthyophaga ichthyaetus*	**NT**						
Western Marsh Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus*	**LC**	11		15		9	
Eastern Marsh Harrier	*Circus spilonotus*	**LC**						
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	**LC**	1		2		16	
Greater Spotted Eagle	*Clanga clanga*	**VU**	2		1		4	
Whitebellied Sea Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucogaster*	**LC**	2		1		5	
Eastern Imperial Eagle	*Aquila heliaca*	**VU**						
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	**LC**	1				5	
OWLS							**1**	**1**
Brown Fish Owl	*Ketupa zeylonensis*	**LC**					1	
Tawny Fish Owl	*Ketupa flavipes*	**LC**						
Buffy Fish Owl	*Ketupa ketupu*	**LC**						
KINGFISHERS			**196**	**4**	**135**	**4**	**470**	**4**
Blyth's Kingfisher	*Alcedo hercules*	**NT**						
Small Blue Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	**LC**	29		34		76	

Blue-eared Kingfisher	*Alcedo meninting*	LC						
Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher	*Ceyx erithaca*	LC						
Stork-billed Kingfisher	*Halcyon capensis*	LC						
Brown-winged Kingfisher	*Pelargopsis amauroptera*	NT						
Ruddy Kingfisher	*Halcyon coromanda*	LC						
White-breasted Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	LC	84		53		187	
Black-capped Kingfisher	*Halcyon pileata*	LC	33		26		36	
Collared Kingfisher	*Todiramphus chloris*	LC						
Crested Kingfisher	*Megaceryle lugubris*	LC						
Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*	LC	50		22		171	
SWALLOWS			**3,460**	**3**	**3,782**	**3**	**14,439**	**3**
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	LC	3,330		3,687		5,699	
Wire-tailed Swallow	*Hirundo smithii*	LC	93		56		1,200	
Red-rumped Swallow	*Cecropis daurica*	LC	37		39		1,050	
Unidentified Swallows							6,490	
WAGTAILS & PIPITS			**371**	**5**	**309**	**5**	**333**	**5**
White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	LC	21		2		1	
White-browed Wagtail	*Motacilla maderaspatensis*	LC	31		17		13	
Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	LC	86		81		90	
Citrine Wagtail	*Motacilla citreola*	LC	23		1		29	
Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	LC	10		8		95	
Red-throated Pipit	*Anthus cervinus*	LC						
Unidentified Pipits & Wagtails			200		200		105	
DIPPERS								
Whitethroated Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	LC						
Brown Dipper	*Cinclus pallasii*	LC						
			1,13,860		**77,244**		**4,06,942**	

Total Number of Species				**122**		**109**		**127**

ASIAN WATERFOWL CENSUS - SUMMARY - TELANGANA

			2023		2022		2021	
		IUCN Red Data List Classification (Note 5)	Totals	Species in each Group	Totals	Species in each Group	Totals	Species in each Group
GREBES			**173**	**1**	**140**	**1**	**325**	**2**
Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	LC	173		140		295	
Great Crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*	LC					30	
Red-necked Grebe	*Podiceps grisegena*	LC						
Black-necked Grebe	*Podiceps nigricollis*	LC						
Unidentified Grebes								
PELICANS			**83**	**1**	**52**	**1**	**39**	**1**
Spot-billed Pelican	*Pelicanus philippensis*	NT	83		52		39	

Great White Pelican	*Pelicanus onocrotalus*	**LC**						
Dalmatian Pelican	*Pelicanus crispus*	**NT**						
Unidentified Pelicans								
CORMORANTS & DARTER			**1,093**	**4**	**1,231**	**4**	**2,550**	**4**
Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	**LC**	365		369		611	
Indian Shag (Indian Cormorant)	*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*	**LC**	94		273		216	
Little Cormorant	*Microcarbo niger*	**LC**	564		532		1,365	
Unidentified Cormorants							240	
Oriental Darter	*Anhinga melanogaster*	**NT**	70		57		118	
HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS			**2,663**	**11**	**2,397**	**10**	**4,462**	**10**
Malayan Night Heron	*Gorsachius melanolophus*	**LC**						
Black Crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	**LC**	137		33		20	
Indian Pond Heron	*Ardeola grayii*	**LC**	357		344		417	
Little Green (Striated) Heron	*Butorides striatus*	**LC**						
Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea*	**LC**	56		53		79	
Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	**LC**	312		359		195	
Goliath Heron	*Ardea goliath*	**LC**						
White-bellied Heron	*Ardea insignis*	**CR**						
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	**LC**	684		627		1,223	
Western Reef Egret	*Egretta gularis*	**LC**						
Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	**LC**	594		450		660	
Intermediate Egret	*Ardea intermedia*	**LC**	99		93		72	
Large Egret	*Casmerodius albus*	**LC**	120		61		91	
Unidentified Herons & Egrets			295		375		1,700	
Great Bittern (Eurasian Bittern)	*Botaurus stellaris*	**LC**						
Yellow Bittern	*Ixobrychus sinensis*	**LC**	4		1		2	
Black Bittern	*Ixobrychus flavicollis*	**LC**	2		1			
Chestnut or Cinnamon Bittern	*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*	**LC**	3				3	
Unidentified Bitterns								
STORKS			**547**	**4**	**504**	**4**	**1,212**	**3**
Painted Stork	*Mycteria leucocephala*	**NT**	384		377		837	
Asian Openbill	*Anastomus oscitans*	**LC**	132		96		359	
Black Stork	*Ciconia nigra*	**LC**	6		7			
White-necked (Woolly-necked) Stork	*Ciconia episcopus*	**NT**	15		16		16	
European White Stork	*Ciconia ciconia*	**LC**						
Oriental White Stork	*Ciconia boyciana*	**EN**						
Black-necked Stork	*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*	**NT**						
Lesser Adjutant Stork	*Leptoptilos javanicus*	**VU**						
Greater Adjutant Stork	*Leptoptilos dubius*	**EN**						
Unidentified Storks			10		8			
IBISES & SPOONBILL			**633**	**4**	**632**	**4**	**1,179**	**4**
Oriental White Ibis	*Threskiornis melanocephalus*	**NT**	148		119		563	
Black Ibis	*Pseudibis papillosa*	**LC**	46		37		183	
Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	**LC**	424		460		424	
Eurasian (White) Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia*	**LC**	15		16		9	
FLAMINGOS			**201**	**1**	**96**	**1**	**12**	**1**

Greater Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus ruber*	**LC**	201		96		12	
Lesser Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus minor*	**NT**						
Unidentified flamingos								
GEESE & DUCKS			**8,813**	**18**	**7,018**	**17**	**10,560**	**16**
Large (Fulvous) Whistling Duck	*Dendrocygna bicolor*	**LC**	15		7		59	
Lesser Whistling Duck	*Dendrocygna javanica*	**LC**	459		616		1,319	
Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*	**LC**	23		39			
Bar-headed Goose	*Anser indicus*	**LC**	366		150		152	
Unidentified geese								
Brahminy Duck	*Tadorna ferruginea*	**LC**	31		14		96	
Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	**LC**	1					
White-winged Duck	*Cairina scutulata*	**EN**						
Comb Duck	*Sarkidiornis melanotos*	**LC**	37		17		63	
Cotton Teal	*Nettapus coromandelianus*	**LC**	332		419		71	
Eurasian Widgeon	*Mareca penelope*	**LC**	697		736		659	
Falcated Teal	*Mareca falcate*	**NT**						
Gadwall	*Mareca strepera*	**LC**	52		6		251	
Common Teal	*Anas crecca*	**LC**	143		93		43	
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	**LC**						
Spot-billed Duck	*Anas poecilorhyncha*	**LC**	820		670		606	
Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	**LC**	889		794		1,620	
Garganey	*Spatula querquedula*	**LC**	329		205		104	
Northern Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*	**LC**	2,211		1,642		1,904	
Marbled Teal	*Marmaronetta angustirostris*	**VU**						
Red-crested Pochard	*Netta rufina*	**LC**	126		131		96	
Common Pochard	*Aythya ferina*	**LC**	382		366		525	
Baer's Pochard	*Aythya baeri*	**CR**						
Ferruginous Duck	*Aythya nyroca*	**NT**						
Tufted Pochard	*Aythya fuligula*	**LC**	200		138		73	
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*	**LC**						
Common Merganser	*Mergus merganser*	**LC**						
White-headed Duck	*Oxyura leucocephala*	**EN**						
Unidentified Ducks			1,700		975		2,919	
CRANES					**1**	**1**		
Common Crane	*Grus grus*	**LC**						
Black-necked Crane	*Grus nigricollis*	**NT**						
Sarus Crane	*Grus antigone*	**VU**						
Siberian Crane	*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*	**CR**						
Demoiselle Crane	*Anthropoides virgo*	**LC**			1			
Unidentified cranes								
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOT			**2,625**	**8**	**2,340**	**6**	**2,123**	**6**
Water Rail	*Rallus aquaticus*	**LC**						
Blue/Slaty-breasted Rail	*Lewinia striatus*	**LC**						
Slaty-legged Crake	*Rallina eurizonoides*	**LC**						
Baillon's Crake	*Zapornia pusilla*	**LC**	3					
Ruddy-breasted Crake	*Zapornia fusca*	**LC**	3		4		2	
Brown Crake	*Zapornia akool*	**LC**	1		2			
Whitebreasted Waterhen	*Amaurornis phoenicurus*	**LC**	85		31		93	

Watercock	*Gallicrex cinerea*	**LC**	1				4	
Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	**LC**	66		30		83	
Grey-headed Swamphen	*Porphyrio porphyrio*	**LC**	411		372		579	
Common Coot	*Fulica atra*	**LC**	2,055		1,901		1,362	
FINFOOT & JACANAS			**46**	**2**	**34**	**2**	**66**	**2**
Masked Finfoot	*Heliopais personata*	**EN**						
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*	**LC**	22		14		14	
Bronze-winged Jacana	*Metopidius indicus*	**LC**	24		20		52	
SHOREBIRDS - WADERS			**3,168**	**23**	**3,141**	**21**	**2,834**	**20**
Greater Painted Snipe	*Rostratula benghalensis*	**LC**	7					
Crab Plover	*Dromas ardeola*	**LC**						
Eurasian Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	**NT**						
Ibisbill	*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*	**LC**						
Pied Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	**LC**	1					
Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	**LC**	497		653		797	
Great Stone Plover	*Esacus recurvirostris*	**NT**						
Oriental Pratincole	*Glareola maldivarum*	**LC**					25	
Collared Pratincole	*Glareola pratincola*	**LC**	15		1			
Little Pratincole	*Glareola lactea*	**LC**	857		948		288	
Northern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	**NT**						
River Lapwing	*Vanellus duvaucelli*	**NT**	5		2			
Greyheaded Lapwing	*Vanellus cinereus*	**LC**						
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus malabaricus*	**LC**	36		35		60	
Sociable Lapwing	*Vanellus gregarius*	**CR**						
White-tailed Lapwing	*Vanellus leucurus*	**LC**						
Red-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*	**LC**	279		289		347	
Little Ringed Plover	*Charadrius dubius*	**LC**	120		74		151	
Kentish Plover	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	**LC**	44		40		86	
Common Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	**LC**						
Grey Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*	**LC**						
Long-billed Plover	*Charadrius placidus*	**LC**						
Greater Sand Plover	*Charadrius leschenaultii*	**LC**						
Pacific Golden Plover	*Pluvialis fulva*	**LC**						
Lesser Sand (Mongolian) Plover	*Charadrius mongolus*	**LC**	35		30		100	
Blacktailed Godwit	*Limosa limosa*	**NT**	142		71		93	
Bar-tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	**NT**						
Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	**LC**						
Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata*	**NT**						
Spotted Redshank	*Tringa erythropus*	**LC**	8		3			
Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*	**LC**	17		4		2	
Marsh Sandpiper	*Tringa stagnatilis*	**LC**	2		1		18	
Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	**LC**	13		4		18	
Spotted (Nordmann's) Greenshank	*Tringa guttifer*	**EN**						
Green Sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*	**LC**	8		5		4	
Wood Sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	**LC**	255		237		161	
Terek Sandpiper	*Xenus cinereus*	**LC**						
Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	**LC**	115		130		80	
Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	**LC**						
Red-necked Phalarope	*Phalaropus lobatus*	**LC**						

Red Phalarope	*Phalaropus fulicarius*	**LC**						
Eurasian Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*	**LC**						
Solitary Snipe	*Gallinago solitaria*	**LC**						
Pintail Snipe	*Gallinago stenura*	**LC**						
Swinhoe's Snipe	*Gallinago megala*	**LC**						
Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	**LC**	31		27		36	
Jack Snipe	*Lymnocryptes minimus*	**LC**						
Asian Dowitcher	*Limnodromus semipalmatus*	**NT**						
Great Knot	*Calidris tenuirostris*	**EN**						
Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	**LC**						
Long-toed Stint	*Calidris subminuta*	**LC**						
Little Stint	*Calidris minuta*	**LC**	347		381		110	
Temminck's Stint	*Calidris temminckii*	**LC**	4		5		2	
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	**LC**					1	
Curlew Sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	**NT**						
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	*Calidris pygmeus*	**CR**						
Broad-billed Sandpiper	*Limicola falcinellus*	**LC**						
Ruff	*Calidris pugnax*	**LC**	95		20		8	
Unidentified Shorebirds			235		181		447	
GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMER			**249**	**7**	**257**	**8**	**329**	**6**
Sooty Gull	*Larus hemprichii*	**LC**						
Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	**LC**			2			
Brown-headed Gull	*Larus brunnicephalus*	**LC**	6				2	
Black-headed Gull	*Larus ridibundus*	**LC**	14		17		1	
Pallas' Gull	*Larus ichthyaetus*	**LC**						
Heuglin's Gull	*Larus heuglini*	**LC**						
Slender-billed Gull	*Larus genei*	**LC**						
Unidentified Gulls					1			
Whiskered Tern	*Chlidonias hybridus*	**LC**	41		34		27	
White-winged Tern	*Chlidonias leucopterus*	**LC**	2		1			
Gull-billed Tern	*Gelochelidon nilotica*	**LC**			8			
Indian River Tern	*Sterna aurantia*	**VU**	144		162		295	
Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	**LC**						
Caspian Tern	*Sterna caspia*	**LC**						
Little Tern	*Sternula albifrons*	**LC**	25		20		3	
Black-bellied Tern	*Sterna acuticauda*	**EN**	8		7		1	
Saunders' Little Tern	*Sterna saundersii*	**LC**						
Great Crested Tern	*Thalasseus bergii*	**LC**						
Lesser Crested Tern	*Thalasseus bengalensis*	**LC**						
Sandwich Tern	*Thalasseus sandvicensis*	**LC**						
Unidentified Terns			9		5			
Indian Skimmer	*Rhynchops albicollis*	**EN**						
OTHER WATER DEPENDENT BIRDS								
HAWKS, EAGLES, OSPREY & FALCONS			**46**	**6**	**32**	**6**	**33**	**4**
Brahminy Kite	*Haliastur indus*	**LC**	13		8		9	
Pallas's Fish Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*	**EN**						
White-tailed Sea Eagle	*Hailaeetus albicilla*	**LC**						
Lesser Grey-headed Fish-Eagle	*Ichthyophaga humilis*	**NT**						
Greater Grey-headed Fish-Eagle	*Icthyophaga ichthyaetus*	**NT**	2		1			

Western Marsh Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus*	**LC**	20		19		19	
Eastern Marsh Harrier	*Circus spilonotus*	**LC**						
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	**LC**	2		1		1	
Greater Spotted Eagle	*Clanga clanga*	**VU**	7		2		4	
Whitebellied Sea Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucogaster*	**LC**						
Eastern Imperial Eagle	*Aquila heliaca*	**VU**						
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	**LC**	2		2			
OWLS			**3**	**1**			**1**	**1**
Brown Fish Owl	*Ketupa zeylonensis*	**LC**	3				1	
Tawny Fish Owl	*Ketupa flavipes*	**LC**						
Buffy Fish Owl	*Ketupa ketupu*	**LC**						
KINGFISHERS			**155**	**3**	**121**	**3**	**127**	**3**
Blyth's Kingfisher	*Alcedo hercules*	**NT**						
Small Blue Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	**LC**	21		21		12	
Blue-eared Kingfisher	*Alcedo meninting*	**LC**						
Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher	*Ceyx erithaca*	**LC**						
Stork-billed Kingfisher	*Halcyon capensis*	**LC**						
Brown-winged Kingfisher	*Pelargopsis amauroptera*	**NT**						
Ruddy Kingfisher	*Halcyon coromanda*	**LC**						
White-breasted Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	**LC**	88		73		75	
Black-capped Kingfisher	*Halcyon pileata*	**LC**						
Collared Kingfisher	*Todiramphus chloris*	**LC**						
Crested Kingfisher	*Megaceryle lugubris*	**LC**						
Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*	**LC**	46		27		40	
SWALLOWS			**676**	**3**	**835**	**3**	**1,943**	**3**
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	**LC**	226		281		467	
Wire-tailed Swallow	*Hirundo smithii*	**LC**	82		68		45	
Red-rumped Swallow	*Cecropis daurica*	**LC**	48		76		181	
Unidentified Swallows			320		410		1,250	
WAGTAILS & PIPITS			**186**	**5**	**115**	**5**	**132**	**5**
White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	**LC**	13		13		6	
White-browed Wagtail	*Motacilla maderaspatensis*	**LC**	62		57		92	
Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	**LC**	42		19		19	
Citrine Wagtail	*Motacilla citreola*	**LC**	43		10		5	
Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	**LC**	26		16		10	
Red-throated Pipit	*Anthus cervinus*	**LC**						
Unidentified Pipits & Wagtails								
DIPPERS								
Whitethroated Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	**LC**						
Brown Dipper	*Cinclus pallasii*	**LC**						
			21,360		**18,947**		**27,927**	

Total Number of Species				**102**		**97**		**91**

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Bird of the Month

Text and Photos: Umesh Mani

European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)

European Roller (Great Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, September 23, 2022)

Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Coraciidae
Genus: *Coracias*
Species: *C. garrulus*
Size: 31 cm

Description & distribution: The European Roller is the only member of the roller family that breeds in Europe. Two sub-species are recognized: *C. g. garrulous*, which breeds in northern Africa (from Morocco to Tunisia), southern and central Europe, and east through north-western Iran to south-western Siberia, and *C. g. semenowi*, which breeds from Iraq and southern Iran east through Kashmir and southern Kazakhstan to Xinjiang in western China. The European Roller is a long-distance migrant, wintering in two distinct regions in southern Africa: (1) from Senegal east to Cameroon, and (2) from western Ethiopia east to Congo and south to South Africa. Some of these populations migrate to Africa through India – hence, in India, the European Roller is a passage migrant, being seen mainly during the passage migration season from late August through September to early October. It is easiest seen in northern Gujarat (especially areas like Nalsarovar, Little Rann of Kutch and Great Rann of Kutch) and parts of Rajasthan, although there are records from many other Indian states, including as far south as Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu. During migration, it travels during the day, singly and in a steady stream spread over a wide front.

The European Roller, slightly smaller than the Indian Roller (*C. benghalensis*), is a stocky, brightly coloured blue and brownish bird. It is easily separated from the Indian Roller by the following features: (1) Turquoise-blue head and nape (blue head and rufous-brown nape in Indian Roller), (2) Blue underparts (rufous breast and blue lower belly in Indian Roller), (3) Plain blue throat and ear coverts (streaked white in Indian Roller), (4) Flight feathers (primaries and secondaries) are black (turquoise band across primaries in Indian Roller), and (5) Black corners to tail (dark blue-black terminal band to tail in Indian Roller). The juvenile European Roller has a turquoise-blue cast to ear coverts, crown and nape, contrasting with browner mantle, which makes it easy to differentiate from juvenile Indian Roller, which lacks this blue cast, and also has heavy streaking on throat and ear coverts.

Habitat & behaviour: The European Roller, much like the Indian Roller, prefers open cultivated country, scrub and light deciduous forest. It tends to perch quietly on vantage points like telegraph wires while waiting to spot prey, and once it catches the prey, it tends to return to the same perch or fly leisurely to another nearby perch, where it batters the prey to death and swallows it. Its diet consists mainly of beetles and other large insects, but it also takes lizards and frogs. The flight is slow and may sometimes involve sudden changes of direction. The call is a harsh scream, usually uttered during the aerial breeding displays.

Nesting: In its breeding grounds, the European Roller breeds generally between May and September. The nest is a tree hollow, and the usual clutch consists of 5-6 pure white eggs. Both male and female share parental duties.

Local name: The European Roller is known as *'Nila krash'* in Kashmir and *'Kashmiri krash'* or *'Kashmiri neelkanth'* in Gujarat.

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